

Annex I

Photostatic copy of letter, dated 25 August, 1952, addressed by General Nicolae Radescu, President of the League of Free Rumanians, to the State Attorney of the Canton of Berne (Switzerland).

The letter mentions an affidavit sworn by Mr. Constantin Visoianu before the Immigration authorities of the U.S.A., but this has not been yet received in Washington (although supposedly enclosed in Radescu's letter)

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2006

Translation

LIGA ROMANILOR LIBERI

THE LEAGUE OF FREE ROMANIANS

17 East 61st Street
New York 21, N.Y.

PL aza 9 - 5540

August 25, 1952.

Confidential

To the Investigation Judge
Canton of Berne,
Berne, Switzerland.

Sir:

Having been the President of the Council of Ministers of Rumania at the time when the events of the Cretzianu case were taking place, I take the liberty to call your attention to certain aspects of that case, which, in my opinion, have a criminal nature.

My intended aim is to see that the Rumanian national fund now deposited in Switzerland be made available to help all exiled Rumanian intellectuals, in view of the fact that their majority is now wholly devoid of means of support, and to see that this money is not exclusively used by two private persons.

I take the liberty to enclose herewith a copy of the public act of April 25, 1950, concerning Mr. Constantin I. Visoianu, who, under oath, stated to (the United States) Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service, that he possessed a sum of some \$158,000 in the United States.

Now it has been alleged in Mr. Cretzianu's case that Mr. Visoianu, while Minister of Foreign Affairs of Rumania in 1945, ordered that a payment of 6 million Swiss francs be made to his friend Mr. Cretzianu, which moneys belonged to the Rumanian State. Seeing that Mr. Visoianu upon his arrival in Switzerland, in 1946, did not own a sum of the size of these \$158,000, it results that he received from Mr. Cretzianu, with whom that is, he thus shared Rumanian public funds the payments of which he himself had ordered.

It is therefore permitted to suppose that Mr. Visoianu ordered this payment to Mr. Cretzianu for the purpose of profiting therefrom himself,

thus committing an act of a criminal nature by attributing state funds to himself. Mr. Visoianu, who upon arriving in Switzerland in 1946 told a number of people that he had but a small sum of money abroad, will never be able to prove he obtained the money from any other source than Mr. Cretzianu.

It should also be noted that none of his colleagues in the Council of Ministers, including myself, as President of the Council, knew anything about this payment. It is inconceivable that a payment as large as 6 million Swiss francs should have possibly been made at a time when the Rumanian State, having no foreign currency available, was unable even to pay its diplomatic personnel abroad, without anyone, including the Prime Minister, being informed.

From Mr. Cretzianu's file it appears that Mr. Visoianu alleged that he signed the letter addressed to Mr. Gigi Anastasiu, then Rumanian charge d'affaires in Berne, on January 12, 1945, ordering him to pay the sum of 6 million Swiss francs to Mr. Cretzianu. The file further shows that this letter arrived in Berne in the hands of Mr. Anastasiu on February 10, 1945. If this was the case, why did Mr. Anastasiu not inform Mr. Cretzianu, who was in Turkey, of this fact of so great importance to Mr. Cretzianu? Why did he keep silent from February 10, 1945 until May 2, 1945, that is to say, for almost three months? The postal service between Switzerland and Turkey functioned normally and regularly. Why then did he wait until May 2, 1945, when Mr. Cretzianu asked him by cable (wire) to deposit the sum immediately with the Union des Banques Suisses? Mr. Anastasiu complied with Mr. Cretzianu's request on May 4, 1945 and immediately reported this by cable (wire), on May 5, 1945. Everything was carried out by telegraph, there being haste to finish the operation as quickly as possible!

It seems things did not occur as these gentlemen state they did.

After the government I presided was overthrown by Vishinsky on March 6, 1945, and Mr. Visoianu, who had been a member of my government, was no longer Minister of Foreign Affairs, I was told that one of the officials of that Ministry, Mr. Fiky Pogoneanu, reminded Mr. Visoianu of the existence of these funds. It was only then, when he was no longer Minister of Foreign Affairs, that Mr. Visoianu signed the letter to Mr. Anastasiu, which he dated January 12, 1945. That letter, like that which informed Mr. Cretzianu of the order of payment in his favor, could not be sent by normal channels, in view of the Rumanian censorship, but had to await Allied couriers for their dispatch one to Switzerland and the other to Turkey. It is only thus that the execution of the payment in May becomes explainable. It was not made in February, when as these

SECRET
- 3 -

gentlemen allege the letter dated January 12 arrived in Switzerland. But it is clear that, had the letter arrived in Switzerland as stated, the payment would have been made in February too. But the letter arriving at a later date, at the beginning of May, the payment was, naturally made only in May, 1945. This proves that the letter was signed only at a late date, when the government had resigned and when the (former) Minister no longer had the right to sign. It was, thus, ante-dated.

The majority of the Rumanian exile press, for months and years, has been discussing and debating this problem of the public funds, which, in all justice, should be made available to all exiled Rumanian intellectuals, and not solely to two persons with the right to dispose of them without rendering any accounts to anyone.

In the hope that these few data and information will be able to help you elucidate this problem, which is so grave and painful for the thousands of exiled Rumanians, I have the honor to be, Sir,

Very respectfully yours,

ss. N. Radescu

General Nicolae Radescu,
President.

SECRET